

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 02471 110724Z

21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00 /051 W  
----- 021319

R 110630Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8528

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS KARACHI 2471

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ASEC, IN, PK

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING ATTEMPT

REF: A. STATE 268738 B. STATE A-3973

1. A PAKISTANI YOUTH MOHAMMAD ASLAM MADE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT HIJACK SWISSAIR FLIGHT SR 319 SHORTLY BEFORE IT LANDED IN KARACHI AROUND MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME DECEMBER 1-2, 1974. HE WAS OVERPOWERED AND ARRESTED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL AT KARACHI AIRPORT. NO INJURIES TO PASSENGERS OR DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT REPORTED. FLIGHT LEFT KARACHI APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE.

2. IN STATEMENT TO POLICE, ASLAM SAID HE HAD BEEN DIS-APPOINTED IN SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT IN COLOMBO AND WISHED TO TRY HIS LUCK IN SOME MIDEASTERN STATE BUT DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PURCHASE TICKET. HE DECIDED TO USE THE REMAINING PORTION OF HIS KARACHI/COLOMBO/KARACHI TICKET TO BOARD AIRCRAFT AND HIJACK IT TO ANY MIDEASTERN AIRPORT.

3. DETAILS REQUESTED REF B FOLLOW:

1) DECEMBER 2, 1974

2) SWISSAIR

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PAGE 02 KARACH 02471 110724Z

3) SCHEDULED AIR CARRIER

- 4) SWITZERLAND
- 5) SR/319
- 6) DC-8
- 7) LV SINGAPORE SUNDAY 1740 (ALL TIMES LOCAL)

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| AR COLOMBO        | 1920 |
| LV COLOMBO        | 2005 |
| AR BOMBAY         | 2215 |
| LV BOMBAY         | 2305 |
| AR KARACHI MONDAY | 0020 |
| LV KARACHI        | 0110 |
| AR GENEVA         | 0510 |
| LV GENEVA         | 0600 |
| AR ZURICH         | 0645 |
- 8) AS SCHEDULED
- 9) APPROXIMATELY ON SCHEDULE
- 10) NOT AVAILABLE
- 11) NOT AVAILABLE
- 12) SOME SECURITY PERSONNEL
- 13) COLOMBO
- 14) NOT AVAILABLE
- 15) NOT AVAILABLE
- 16) NORMAL PRESENTATION OF TICKET
- 17) ROUND TRIP KARACHI/COLOMBO/KARACHI
- 18) NOT AVAILABLE
- 19) ABOUT 40 MINUTES FLYING TIME AWAY FROM KARACHI, PROBABLY  
OVER ARABIAN SEA
- 20) APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT PAKISTAN TIME DECEMBER 1-2,  
1974 (1900 GMT, DECEMBER 1)
- 21) BRANDISHED TOY PISTOL TO INTIMIDATE CREW
- 22) TOY (PLASTIC) PISTOL
- 23) PRESUMABLY IN POCKET
- 24) ENGLISH
- 25) ONLY PLANE'S STEWARD AND CAPTAIN DIRECTLY THREATENED
- 26) ONLY THE HIJACKER WAS INJURED, (HEAD LACERATIONS)
- 27) FORCED STEWARD TO TAKE HIM TO CAPTAIN. ASKED CAPTAIN  
TO FLY TO TRIPOLI. PERMITTED CAPTAIN TO LAND AIRCRAFT AT  
KARACHI WHEN THE LATTER PLEADED SHORTAGE OF FUEL  
TO REACH TRIPOLI. AT KARACHI AIRPORT, ORDERED ALL  
PASSENGERS TO LEAVE THE PLANE.

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PAGE 03 KARACH 02471 110724Z

- 28) VERBAL COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH
- 29) NONE
- 30) SEE 27 AND 28
- 31) TOLD POLICE LATER THAT HE HAD GONE TO COLOMBO IN  
SEARCH OF EMPLOYMENT. HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL THERE  
AND WAS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED. WISHED TO PROCEED  
TO SOME MIDEASTERN STATE FOR SAME PURPOSE BUT HAD TICKET  
ONLY UP TO KARACHI AND DID NOT HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL

FUNDS. DECIDED TO BOARD PLANE FOR KARACHI AND HIJACK  
THE AIRCRAFT TO A MIDEASTERN AIRPORT.

32) PRESEUMABLY NONE

33) NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

34) NIL

35) AT KARACHI AIRPORT, SECURITY PERSONNEL IN GARB OF  
AIRLINE STAFF, ENTERED PLANE SURREPTITIOUSLY AND  
OVERPOWERED HIJACKER.

36) NONE

37) NOT RELEVANT

38) APPROXIMATELY 0200 DECEMBER 2. KARACHI

39) HIJACKER OVERPOWERED AND ARRESTED

40) NONE

41) HIJACKER ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF HOLDING PASSENGERS  
UNDER WRONGFUL CONFINEMENT, THREAT TO KILL,  
AND OTHER CHARGES.

42) MOHAMMAD ASLAM, SON OF MOHAMMAD SULEMAN, PAKISTANI  
MALE, AGE 24. RESIDENT OF SAKRAND, NAWABSHAH DISTRICT,  
SIND, PAKISTAN. NO KNOWN MENTAL DISORDER, ORGANIZATIONAL  
AFFILIATION OR CRIMINAL RECORD.

43) NONE

TIGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ANTIHIJACKING PROCEDURES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KARACH02471  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740359-0342  
**From:** KARACHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741244/aaaablrh.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, ASEC, IN, PK, SWISSAIR, (ASLAM, MOHAMMAD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005